

State Representative

# Bill Crawford



Representing Marion County

How To Reach  
Representative

Bill Crawford

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Summer, 2000

Dear Friends,

The One Hundred and Eleventh Indiana General Assembly has had many accomplishments, including more than \$974 million in tax cuts, a plan to distribute the more than \$4 billion Indiana will receive from the national tobacco settlement, and increases in funding for public schools and the CHOICE home health care program.

I have detailed several of those items in this newsletter along with providing a breakdown of the various Build Indiana projects and the additional funding for roads in our district.

This will be my last official newsletter until after the November election. However, I am still available to assist with problems, concerns or questions with state government. Please contact my office at 232-9600 if you need assistance.

Sincerely,

## Building District 98

### ROAD FUNDING

**Additional \$200 million  
will help build and  
repair local roads**

### TAX CUTS

**\$974 million in tax cuts**

### BUILD INDIANA FUNDS

**Lottery profits help  
communities with  
special projects**

**\* DETAILS INSIDE \***

# An update from Rep. Bill Crawford

## CRIMINAL LAW STUDY COMMISSION TO REVIEW CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

You are probably well aware of the on-going controversy around the issue of capital punishment throughout the nation. Governor Frank O'Bannon is to be commended for opening the issue to public debate and dialogue by charging the Criminal Law Study Commission with determining whether or not the application of the death penalty in Indiana is (1) administered fairly; (2) cost-effective; and (3) race-neutral.

I will also be serving on the following Interim Study Committees and Statutory Commissions. Feel free to contact me with any concerns you may have pertaining to these areas.

Chair, Interim Study Committee on  
Medicaid Oversight

Interim Study Committee on Juvenile Law  
and Restorative Issues

Health Finance Commission

Medicaid Advisory Committee

## Tax cuts benefit families



### Homeowners and Renters

Property taxes on a taxpayer's principal place of residence can be deducted up to \$2,500. The renters' [income tax deduction](#) was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The county welfare funds and the county welfare administration funds were eliminated from local property taxes.

### Families and children

The [income tax deduction](#) was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for dependent children under age 19 and full-time students under age 24. You may reduce your Indiana adjusted gross income for each qualifying dependent.

A new \$100,000 deduction has been provided for each "Class A" beneficiary, which includes a child, parent, grandchild or grandparent to reduce the [inheritance tax](#).

### Senior Citizens

The [income tax deduction](#) for most seniors was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Each qualified taxpayer may take this deduction — meaning married senior couples may now deduct \$3,000 from their adjusted gross income.

Many seniors also received an increase in the [property tax deduction](#) from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The basic eligibility qualifications have been expanded to include senior citizens with a maximum adjusted gross income of \$25,000 and who own property with a maximum assessed valuation of less than \$23,000. However, there are some limitations to the deduction, including (1) everyone who lives on the property must be 65 or older. The deduction is reduced if everyone is not 65; (2) individuals who share ownership must reside on the property. However, living in a nursing home or hospital will not prevent a person from receiving this deduction; and (3) you may not receive any other deductions other than the Mortgage Deduction and the Standard Deduction.

The legislature also established a new state income tax deduction for the amount of [long-term health care](#) insurance premiums.

## Graduation Qualifying Exam

ISTEP has been a part of Indiana's K-12 education system since 1988. We have worked hard to improve the test and use it to provide connections between curriculum, classroom instruction, and assessment at the classroom, school, and corporation levels.

Approximately 86 percent of members of the Class of 2000 met the GQE requirement by passing the test. Many students who have not passed the test still will be able to demonstrate their knowledge through two additional ways:

- (1) Complete the Core 40 curriculum with no grade lower than a "C", and have the principal's recommendation; or
- (2) Complete all of the following:
  - Maintain an attendance rate of 95 percent;
  - Take the test in English and/or mathematics at least one time every year it is offered;
  - Participate in remediation opportunities provided by the school;
  - Earn a "C" average in the courses comprising the 22 credits specifically required for graduation;
  - Obtain a written recommendation from an English and/or mathematics teacher who documents that the student has attained the skill levels in English and mathematics;
  - The principal must concur with the recommendation.

## Tobacco agreement to help several programs & groups

### *Settlement targets health care, prescription drugs*

Certainly one of the biggest achievements of the 2000 legislative session was passage of legislation that sets up a system to allocate the more than \$4 billion Indiana will be receiving from the national tobacco settlement over the next 25 years.

In the first year alone, \$35 million will be dedicated toward health care programs, with an emphasis on tobacco education and prevention. Another \$20 million will be used to help seniors on low incomes purchase needed prescription drugs. Community health centers will receive \$15 million in program support, along with a one-time-only appropriation of \$10 million to make physical improvements to facilities.

## BUILD INDIANA PROJECTS DISTRICT 98

Since 1989, \$229.9 million has been distributed statewide from lottery profits for Build Indiana Projects. The organizations and projects listed below received appropriations in the last biennial budget.

Indiana Black Expo

Health Net Foundation

Martindale Brightwood Community  
Development

United Northeast Community Development

## ROAD FUNDING

We approved an additional \$200 million to build and repair local roads in last year's state budget. This funding is in addition to regular funding. Here is the breakdown for our district.

Marion County -- \$13.4 million  
Indianapolis -- \$13.5 million

**\*The amount listed for each city is in addition to the county total\***

# Hoosier Healthwise

Hoosier Healthwise offers health care to children, pregnant women and low-income working families. Each child has a personal doctor -- known as a Primary Medical Provider or PMP. Each child's doctor works with the parent to plan for all of the health care needs of the child, including routine check-ups, immunizations, screenings, diagnoses and treatment. Hoosier Healthwise also offers access to dental care.

Families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (equal to about \$34,000 for a family of four) may qualify for Hoosier Healthwise. To find out if you qualify, contact Hoosier Healthwise at 1-800-889-9949.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was created as part of the Federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Congress created CHIP as a way to encourage states to provide health insurance to uninsured children. In 1998, Indiana enacted legislation creating the Hoosier Healthwise program for children. More than 115,000 children have been added to the program since 1998. This sizable addition resulted in Indiana having the largest Medicaid enrollment increase of any state.

**Hoosier Healthwise Helpline 1-800-889-9949.**

## *How to apply*

1. Have an application mailed to you by calling 1-800-889-9949.
2. Fill out and sign the application.
3. Turn in the application by mailing it, taking it to an enrollment center or taking it to your local office of the Division of Family and Children.
4. Once your application is reviewed, you will receive a packet of information on the program and be assigned a Benefit Advocate.



**Rep. Bill Crawford**

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**Call the Statehouse**

**232-9600**

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